

RTA Zero Fare Policy Brief 1: Removing Barriers to Transit

At its core, a Zero Fare for Everyone policy is a purposeful, proactive action that advances equity. All passengers share the same public benefit, similar to our parks and libraries.

A Zero Fare for Everyone policy will reduce or eliminate three barriers for people who are currently *using or considering* transit:

- **Financial barrier** – Removes the cost burden of paying for transit
- **Mental barrier** – Removes the uncertainty of how to pay to use the system; eliminates questions about how much to pay, how and where to pay, carrying the right change or remembering farecards, calculating zone distances and transfers, etc.
- **Time barrier** –
 - **Pre-trip:** eliminates the time and hassle of paying for fares, passes, tickets, etc. – including the need to travel to key locations to purchase them
 - **While onboard transit:** eliminates the act of interacting with a farebox and the entire on-boarding payment and pass usage process and the associated delays for all patrons

What is Zero Fare?

Zero fare is a transit agency policy whereby transit patrons are not required to make a fare payment, use or display a pass, ticket, card, mobile payment, etc., to ride the system.

